

Conservation CONNECTION

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Kanawha and Glide Water District Presented with 2000 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award

On January 19, 2001, Lowell Ploss, the deputy director of the Bureau of Reclamation, presented Mike Alves, manager of Kanawha and Glide Water Districts, with the 2000 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award. The Kanawha and Glide Water Districts have been management leaders and innovators in Northern California over the past six years. The Board of Directors and Manager, Mike Alves, has started implementing innovative water management practices even before Reclamation's requirement for water management planning.

In the early 1980's, the districts staff implemented an innovative "handheld recording" program. In

1997, the staff came to Reclamation through the Water Conservation Field Services Program requesting assistance to update the program to newer computer and equipment formats and develop new software for the program. Today, the districts continue to work with the software developer in improving the program and format. This real-time water measurement data collection and processing system enabled the districts to establish an active program of water allocation transfers, which has been operating successfully between the two districts for many years.

Additionally, the districts are in a better position to locate and acquire water from other districts to fill water shortfalls.

The districts have been exemplary in their planning efforts, both in identifying applicable best management practices for the area and in implementing those practices. The staff utilizes their data gathering and processing in an innovative way, providing their water users information that both informs and encourages efficient water use. Every day, water measurement data is gathered and processed by the districts. From this information, water allocations are tracked on a daily basis so farmers can call-in or stop by the office and check how much water they have used and how much water they have left in their allotment. The staff has developed excellent communications with their water users and has maintained supportive information transfers. It is because of this exceptional water management and conservation system that Kanawha and Glide Water Districts were presented with the 2000 Commissioner's Water Conservation Award.

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Pete Vonich presented with DOI's 2000 Environmental Achievement Award



Pete Vonich, environmental specialist in Central California Area Office's resources management division at Folsom, won the 2000 Department of the Interior Environmental Achievement Award. The award was presented to Pete on September

27, 2000 by the Assistant Deputy Secretary, Lisa Guiche in recognition of his innovative approach to creating the American River Water Education Center (ARWEC) at Folsom Dam.

Pete's federal career began more than 20 years ago with the Department of Agriculture. Pete has spent the last 16 years with Reclamation. Currently Pete wears two hats for Reclamation as the hazardous materials coordinator and the water conservation specialist for the CCAO. It is these two roles that gave Pete the knowledge and expertise to create the ARWEC.

As part of the CVPIA of 1992, the center was originally located in the Mid-Pacific Regional Federal Office Building in Sacramento. Because of increased security requirements and building renovations, the center was permanently closed. The original center was opened in 1994 and was managed by the Regional Water Conservation Staff. The center played a very important role in educating children and teachers about water conservation.

Because the Center was a creative and highly effective public outreach liaison for Reclamation, there was a need to recreate and implement something similar. Pete was approached in 1997 by the Region about establishing a new Water Education Center at the CCAO. Pete stated that people constantly asked him how he could have a calm and no visitor's center.

Hot Tips



Did you know . . .

Over-watering is a common cause of unhealthy plants and one of the biggest water wasters. A good way to see if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass; if the blades bounce back, they don't need water. If the grass stays flat, turn on your sprinklers.

Did you know . . .

A free **Do It Yourself Home Water Audit Kit** is available through Resources Conservation. The 20-page pamphlet provides easy step-by-step directions for finding and fixing leaks, measuring faucet and shower flow rates, and over 50 ways to save water in and around your home.

**For more information, call:
Resources Conservation, Inc.
1 (800) 23-2862**

Did you know . . .

That every time you use your toilet as a wastebasket or ash tray, you waste anywhere from 1.6 to seven gallons of water? Conserve water in your home by flushing your toilet less, using the trash for facial tissue and cotton balls, and by using the ash tray for cigarette butts.

Several Reclamation employees, and the California Department of State Parks began the brainstorm to bring the ARWEC to life. After a planning process of about five months, the ARWEC went into the

Pete Vonich Awarded *(continued)*

construction phase. With the donation of materials from , State Parks, San Juan Water District, Rain Bird SMUD, Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), and the Sacramento Tree Foundation, the ARWEC was built. All of the ARWEC was constructed from recycled or surplus materials.

Last year the ARWEC had over 15,000 visitors and visitorship continues to grow. It is because of Pete and others hard work and dedication that the importance of water conservation and education is continuing to be heard.

*Congratulations Pete,
on your accomplishments and for your
2000 Environmental Achievement Award*

“How To” in the Water Distribution World

Bryce White provides the do's and don'ts

In October, Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center (ITRC) presented an annual series of educational classes. This is the fifth year ITRC has presented irrigation training classes. This year the subjects covered were; Overview of Irrigation District Modernization, Flow Measurement, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, Canal Modernization, Water Balance, Hand Held Data Recorders, and Canal Operation.

Since Reclamation is a sponsor of the classes, I attended this year and truly enjoyed seeing first hand how the classes went. The presenters Dr. Charles Burt and Stuart Styles, impressed and dedicated me.

Dr.'s Burt and Styles have extensive backgrounds in irrigation and district operations. They have visited and worked with many districts and farmers in our region, nationally and internationally. One of the things I found impressive was the concentrated wealth of information available from these two men. The classes quickly took on an individual nature as the attendees indicated their own interests and concerns. Dr.'s Burt and Styles easily adjusted their presentations to address the areas of interest indicated by the audience. Their wide background allowed them to focus on the attendees needs based on this interaction.

The facilities at ITRC include a demonstration canal with many different control structures. These facilities provide the attendees with the opportunity to compare various types of control structures in a single location. The devices can be compared under different flow conditions to see which types are better for specific conditions.

There are also flow measurement device comparisons, water level sensing device comparisons, and automated control and data acquisition. I'm not talking about pictures on the wall; they have an array of actual equipment in operation. This is a very valuable site for anyone thinking of changing his or her system.

Next Fall watch for the ITRC announcement for the next series of classes. The schedule will also be posted on the ITRC web site at www.itrc.org. If you are a Reclamation contractor, you can also contact your area water conservation specialist or the ITRC to explore on-site training for district personnel.

To contact the ITRC by phone call: (805) 756-234.

The Spotlight is on: Lucille Billingsley



Lucille Billingsley

Lucille Billingsley, the Region's Urban Water Conservation Specialist, is no stranger to Water Conservation.

She is filling in both in Marsh a Prillwitz as Marsh a returned to the Department of Water Resources. Since 1997, Lucille has worked as a Water Conservation Specialist with a broader emphasis. Over the last three years, Lucille has taken the lead in the Annual Update process, plan reviews, and the planning guidebook. She worked on the 1999 Criteria, on internal contracts and grants, and as the team's architect. One of Lucille's strengths is her ability to do many tasks competently while making it look effortless. As the new Urban specialist, Lucille will be adding to her already busy schedule.

Some of her new duties include representing Reclamation at the California Urban Water Council (CUWCC) meetings. She is also on the measurement evaluation subcommittee, steering committee, and she attends the plenary meetings. Reclamation's Urban Contractors will submit their Annual Updates online through the CUWCC website.

site. Inherent to the new emphasis of her position, Lucille is gaining expertise in Urban water management and is responsible for representing Reclamation in the Urban water conservation sector.

When asked what she likes best about her new duties, her response was that she enjoys interacting with the Urban Council, working on the website, and being part of a "great team".

Since the middle of 1999 Lucille has worked closely with Marsh a Prillwitz transitioning into the Urban field. For the past six years, she was also the MP Region's foreign visitor's program coordinator, a duty since handed off to the Office of Public Affairs.

At 5:00 a.m. Lucille starts her day by sending her kindergarten twin girls and her high school freshman daughter off to classes before leaving for work. As busy as she is with her family, she still finds time to attend San Francisco Giants and 49er games!

Lucille feels that "what we do will hopefully make a difference." She says that she's really proud of the accomplishments of her team and that she's really fortunate to have what she has.

Lucille Billingsley
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region
can be reached at 916-978-5215.

Five-Year Water Management Plans Reporting Process

Many Reclamation Contractors are either preparing or implementing a Water Management Plan (Plan) guided by Reclamation's Criteria for Evaluating Water Management Plans (Criteria). 1999 was the first year that the initial Five-Year Plans were revised. There has been a lot of confusion and misunderstanding over the interpretation of a complete Plan, and what constitutes meeting the due date (i.e. when does Reclamation consider a Plan to be late). Hopefully, in the following explanation of the review process, we will provide Contractors with a better understanding of the submittal process and the due date for their Revised Plan.

The first step in the review process is for Contractors to contact their Area Office Water Conservation Specialist for assistance. Reclamation's **Water Management Planner: Guidebook, Plan Format, and Supporting Software** are to assist Contractors in preparing their revised Plans. A draft Plan that meets the current Criteria should be submitted to the Area Office. After the Area Office reviews the Plan, they forward that Plan to the Regional Office for review and comments. Once the Plan has been preliminarily "deemed adequate" by the Regional Office, a letter goes out to the Contractors. The letter requests three copies of the Final Plan, along with a Board Resolution accepting the Plan. Once this is received, a notice is published in the Federal Register. The general public is given a 30-day review period in which to submit comments. Reclamation considers all comments prior to the Plan being deemed adequate. After this process is complete, the Plan becomes a public document.

A Contractor's due date is determined by when their initial Plan was entered into the Federal Register. For example, districts that prepared Plans in 1996 are required to have their Revised Plans complete by December 31, 2001. This means that their Plan must be in the Federal Register by this date. In order for Contractors to meet this deadline, they must "back into" this date on their timeline. The 30-day comment period should be taken into consideration as well as the time to get the Board Resolution. Finally, some time is needed for the "back-and-forth" exchange of comments between Reclamation and the Contractor. Therefore it is advisable to begin the process for plans no later than Summer 2001. Below are suggested dates for process for the five year revision process for plans due this year.

If you have any questions, please contact Lucille Billingsley at (16)978-5215 or (YDD 978-5608).

Recommended Schedule for Water Management Plans Due in 2001

| Action | Recommended Dates |
|---|--------------------|
| Contact Your Area Office Water Conservation Specialist for Assistance | January 1 – June 1 |
| Draft Plan to Area Office | By July 1 |
| Area Office Review and District Revisions | By September 1 |
| Regional Office Review and District Revisions | By November 1 |
| District's Board of Director Resolution | By December 1 |
| Federal Register Notice | By December 31 |

Cal Poly ITRC Training

Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center, located in San Luis Obispo, will be conducting two classes for irrigation professionals. The classes both range from 2 to 3 days and will offer a wide range of irrigation education. If interested, please sign up early, as classes fill up quickly.

AG . IRRIGATION SYSTEM EVALUATION SHORT COURSE

June 18-20, 2001

This 2 1/2 day class covers the definitions and techniques of evaluation of six distinct irrigation methods (furrow, border strip, hand move/side roll sprinkler, linear move sprinkler, under tree sprinkler, and drip/micro).

This class is sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region and the California Department of Water Resources

*For more information visit the website:
<http://www.itrc.org/classes/ISEclass.html>*

DESIGNER/MANAGER SCHOOL OF IRRIGATION

August 16 - 31, 2001

This 1 to 3 day class covers basic soil, plant, and water hydraulics. Pumps, chemigation, row crop drip and micro irrigation, and irrigation scheduling.

You may attend one day or the entire 2 1/2 days.

This class is co-sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region.

*For more information visit the website:
<http://www.itrc.org/classes/DesMgr.html>*

Please direct all questions about course content to:

Stuart Styles

by calling 805-756-2222

or sending an e-mail to ssstyles@calpoly.edu

Please direct all questions about registration to:

Susanne Gartner

by calling (805) 756-2130 or (805) 756-2134

or sending an e-mail to sgartner@calpoly.edu

fax (805) 756-2133

Cal Poly ITRC website: www.itrc.org

Districts - What They are Doing

Amador Resource Conservation District, Project # 2000-5

Project# 2000-5 was a joint effort undertaken by the City of Plymouth and Trinchero Family Estates (TFE). For the past year, the City and TFE have worked together on the Arroyo Ditch. Amador County has used the ditch to convey water for more than a 100 years. The Arroyo ditch provides the contractor with a safe and reliable water supply for both urban and agricultural demand.

The grant money was used to purchase 20-foot sections of 36-inch squash pipe and cement. All the improvements to the ditch were made below the Cosumnes River South Fork diversion. The pictures below indicate the locations where the squash pipes were replaced. The City and TFE selected these locations because they were identified as leaky areas of the ditch.



The work areas were extremely rugged. Hillside and Blood Gulch are a few names of the areas in which the work took place. Both names accurately describe the type of terrain with which the workers had to contend. The pipes were moved to the locations with four-wheelers and a narrow trailer and the cement was moved in the same way except a power wheelbarrow was also used. For long improvement sections, the pipes were banded together and cement poured at both ends forming an apron shaped entrance to exit from the pipes. Smaller repairs were made with a single pipe and cement.

The City of Plymouth estimates that seepage losses were approximately 15% - 30% of the volume that historically flowed in the ditch. This equates to approximately 2 to 3 cubic feet per second based on the conveyance capacity of the ditch. This estimate will be refined when future flows in the ditch can be compared with the flows that were measured prior to the ditch conversion. Project# 2000-5 took roughly 30 working days to complete and the weather was an asset to the project completion. The project was a definite success in eliminating leaks and conserving water. This is an excellent example of positive water conservation efforts made through a partnership.

Written by

Kevin P. Stewart, Monterey & Burke
Vineyard Manager and Shani Lee



Calendar of Events . . .

IRRIGATION AND WATER USE EFFICIENCY WORKSHOPS

April 2001

Conducted by the CSU Fresno
Center for Irrigation Technology

*For specific dates, information, and registration
call CIT at (559) 28-5752*

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

April 8 - 11, 2001

Atlanta, Georgia

*For more information
contact AWWA at (303) 794-7711*

ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES (ACWA) CONFERENCE

May 9-11

South Lake Tahoe, Nevada

*For more information
contact Ellie Meek at (916) 441-4545*

AGRICULTURE IRRIGATION SYSTEM EVALUATION SHORTCOURSE

June 2001

Cal Poly ITRC

*For more information call (805) 756-2341
or log on to: www.itrc.org*

AWWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

June 17 - 21, 2001

Washington, DC

*For more information contact AWWA
at (303) 794-7711*

Conservation CONNECTION

Water Conservation Center
Bureau of Reclamation, MP-410
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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